

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-10 AGR-10 INT-05 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 OFA-01 OES-05 DLOS-04 SAL-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01 IO-11 /125 W

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R 241058Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6064

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CICNCLANT

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USNATO 1355

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0257

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, IC, UK

SUBJECT: ICELAND-UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: HATTERSLEY'S COMMENTS
CHALLENGED

1. REPORTED REMARKS BY UK MINISTER OF STATE ROY HATTERSLEY CONCERNING PROBLEM OF DEALING WITH DIVIDED ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT HAVE DRAWN RETORTS FROM SPOKESMEN OF BOTH COALITION PARTNERS.

2. HATTERSLEY, WHO IN EYES OF MANY ICELANDERS HAS COME TO PERSONIFY BRITISH "IMPUDENCE" AND "UNREASONABLENESS" IN FISHERIES DISPUTE, WAS CITED IN SATURDAY PAPERS AS SAYING THAT BEFORE UK AND GOI COULD REACH AGREEMENT GOI MUST SOLVE SERIOUS INTERNAL POLITICAL DIFFERENCES. ACCORDING TO ACCOUNTS, HATTERSLEY
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PRAISED PRIMEMIN GEIR HALLGRIMSSON AS DECISIVE AND

CORAGEOUS LEADER BUT SAID UNFORTUNATELY HMG COULD NOT DEAL WITH HALLGRIMSSON ALONE (A CLEAR SLAP, AS SEEN HERE, AT PROGRESSIVE PARTY CHAIRMAN OLAFUR JOHANNESSON).

3. ASKED TO COMMENT ON REPORTS, JOHANNESSON SAID HE PAID LITTLE ATTENTION TO WHAT HATTERSLEY MIGHT SAY AND THOUGHT LATTER SHOULD TEND TO BRITISH POLITICS RATHER THAN THOSE OF ICELAND. JOHANNESSON NOTED THAT THERE COULD BE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WITHIN ANY GOVERNMENT BUT THAT HE FAILED TO SEE WHERE HATTERSLEY GOT HIS NOTION OF SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT WITHIN GOI.

4. IN FEBRUARY 22 INDEPENDENCE PARTY MORGUNBLADID, AUTHORITY WEEKLY POLITICAL COLUMN SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND HOW HATTERSLEY OR ANYONE ELSE COULD ATTRIBUTE NEGOTIATING OBSTACLES TO GOI. IN FACT, PAPER SAID, HATTERSLEY SEEMED TO BE TRYING TO ESCAPE BLAME THAT RESTS WITH HMG AND HIM PERSONALLY FOR BREAKDOWN IN FISHERIES TALKS. COLUMN WENT ON TO SAY THAT HATTERSLEY HAD HOPED TO USE ROLE IN FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS TO FURTHER OWN POLITICAL AMBITIONS BUT HAD FAILED BADLY.
MARTIN

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